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No.: EL 759 976 280 US**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT  
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Date of Deposit: July 2, 2001

Applicant(s): N. SAKAI

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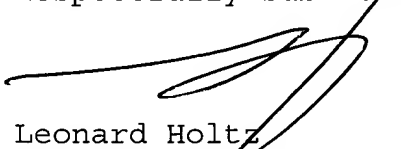
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No. 06-1378.**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
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S I R :

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**Page 1: Please insert the following as the first sentence:

A' --This application is a U.S. National Phase Application  
under 35 USC 371 of International Application PCT/JP00/08520  
(published in English) filed December 1, 2000.--

Respectfully submitted,

  
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